Return of Seized Property

†148. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tax assesses, in Bhopal income-tax circle in Madhya Pradesh whose property was seized during search or survey and the same has not been returned despite no dues of the Department on them;

(b) the reasons for not returning the seized property; and

(c) whether the amount would be returned rapidly in such matters, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Seized assets in the following cases of Bhopal have not yet been returned:

1. S/Shri Shivanandan Goyal
2. Deepak Palod
3. Anand Bangur, L/H Late K.K. Bangur
4. Onkar Lal Laxminarayan

(b) and (c) In three of the cases, the appeals are pending before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. The evidenciary value of the seized assets is relevant in the proceedings before the Tribunal in one case and in the other two cases, the decision regarding release of seized jewellery would depend on the decision of the Tribunal. In the fourth case, the Department is before the Madhya Pradesh High Court and the seized articles have been retained to protect the interest of revenue. The taxpayer has been asked to furnish a bank guarantee of equal amount in case the seized articles are released.

Amount of Overdraft with States

†*149. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of overdraft of each State as on 31st March, 1998 and 1999 respectively; and

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps taken or likely to be taken in future to enable the State Governments to reduce their amount of overdraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Transactions between a State and the RBI are conducted as per agreement between the two. Since, it is a matter of relationship between the banker and the client (RBI and State Government) the information about the State's overdrafts on their accounts with the RBI is not published/made public by the Government of India.

(b) In order to reduce the amount of overdraft of the State Governments a ceiling on overdrafts has been implemented by the RBI w.e.f. March 1, 1999 based on the recommendations of its Informal Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments. Ministry of Finance has also advised State Governments from time to time to undertake steps to improve their overall financial position.

Black Money in the Country

150. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of black money in the country;

(b) the reasons for not conducting any fresh study to quantify black money in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent generation of black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) According to a study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 the estimated undisclosed money was between Rs. 31584 crores and Rs. 36786 crores. No estimate is available on the amount of black money circulating in the Indian economy at present.